

Saint Joseph's Church

Staffed by

Capuchin Franciscan Friars of the New York

– New England Province of St. Mary

Fr. Peter Kaseta, O.F.M. Cap. Pastor

Fr. James Hammer, O.F.M. Cap. Parochial Vicar

Fr. Don Bosco Duquette, O.F.M. Cap.

Rev. Mr. John McAuliffe, Deacon

Parish Directory

Friary / Parish Office: 207-797-7026

Fax: 207-797-2679

E-mail: stjoseph@maine.rr.com

Parish Website: www.sjoseph.org

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

And by appointment

Religious Education

Religious Education Office: 207-797-9509

Fax: 207-797-2679

E-mail: stjosephdre@netscape.net

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Religious Education [Grades Pre K – 9]

Ms. Pamela Fogg - Director

St. Brigid School

School Website : www.sbrigids.com

695 Stevens Avenue

Portland, Maine 04103

207-797-7073

Ms. Lori Lee – Principal

New Parishioners:

Welcome! We invite you to the St. Joseph Parish Family. Please Register by calling the friary.

Departing Parishioners:

Please inform the friary office prior to moving from the Parish.

Knights of Columbus, Council 11257

Bishop Amedee Prouix

FMI Contact: Grand Knight Michael Pizzo (207-797-6326)

St. Joseph's Women Sodality

FMI Contact: 207-797-9509



**673 Stevens Avenue
Portland, Maine 04103**

Established 1909

Liturgical Life

Sunday Masses:

Saturday: 4:00 PM

Sunday: 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM

Holy Days:

Vigil of Feast: 7:00 PM, Feast Day: 8:00 AM and 12 Noon

Weekdays:

Monday – Saturday: 8:00 AM

Legal Holidays: 9:00 AM

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession):

Saturday: 2:30 PM and by appointment.

Baptism: Please call friary office.

Baptism is customarily celebrated on the last Sunday of the month.

Marriage: Couples should contact the friary office at least 6 months in advance.

Please notify the friary office if a family member is hospitalized or if a home visit is desired.

Mass cards and enrollments for the living and deceased are available in the friary office.

“Lord make me an instrument of thy peace”

MEETINGS THIS WEEK

Cluster 28 Transition Committee: Monday, December 21st, 7:30 p.m., St. Patrick Rectory.

CHRISTMAS 2009**AT ST. JOSEPH'S****Thursday, December 24th:**

NO Parish Mass at 8:00 a.m.

4:00 p.m. (in the church)

4:00 p.m. (in the Fr. Hayes Center)

6:00 p.m. (in the church) Family Mass with re-enactment of the first Christmas Crèche in Greccio, Italy

Christmas Day, Friday, December 25th:

Midnight Mass (in the church)

10:00 a.m. (in the church)

NO MASS at 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 31st:

8:00 a.m. (in the church)

4:00 p.m. (in the church)

Friday, January 1st:

9:00 a.m. (in the church)

12:00 noon (in the church)

IN OUR CLUSTER**ST. PATRICK****ST. PIUS X**

December 24th

4:00 p.m.

4:30 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

12:00 Midnight

December 25th

9:00 a.m.

7:00 a.m.

9:00 a.m.

CHRISTMAS NOTES

- Attractive Mass cards and Christmas Novena Mass cards are available in the friary office. The stipend for the Christmas Novena of Masses is \$5.00.
- Envelopes to provide Christmas flowers for our church have been included in the packet of offertory envelopes mailed to parishioners. Extra envelopes are available at the church exits.
- St. Joseph's Christmas Newsletter has been mailed to all parishioners. The newsletter contains, among other items of interest, the schedule of Masses for Christmas and New Year's. Extra copies are available at the church exits.

DEBT REDUCTION

The second collection at Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day will help St. Joseph Parish reduce its debt. Please be as generous as your means will allow.

ST. JOSEPH'S WOMEN'S SODALITY monthly meeting will be held on January, 5TH 2010 at 7:00 p.m., rosary in the church, 7:30 meeting in the friary meeting room. Guest speaker, Larry Guertin, SFO, Parish Catechetical Leader at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish will discuss the Secular Franciscan Order.



The friary/parish office will be closed for the Christmas holiday from noon on Thursday, December 24th, to Monday morning, December 28th. It will also be closed for the New Year's holiday from noon on Thursday, December 31st, to Monday morning, January 4th.

DENNY'S AFFINITY PROGRAM

St. Joseph Parish is now able to offer, free of charge, participation in Denny's Affinity Program. With the use of a Denny's Affinity Program card, the user will receive a 15% discount and 5% of the check will be donated to St. Joseph Parish. The program card can be used at all six Denny's Maine locations as well as at specific locations in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. So, if you plan to eat at a Denny's, it would be well worth having a Denny's Affinity card. Your use will also generate some needed income for our parish. To obtain an Affinity Program card, please contact the parish office (797-7026, ext. 201).

YOUR CHRISTMAS OFFERING

The Christmas offertory first collection will benefit St. Joseph's Parish. The second collection at the Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day will help the parish reduce its debt. Please be as generous as your means will allow in both collections. Up to 2005, the Christmas collection, according to the policy of the Diocese of Portland, was allocated to the Capuchin Franciscan Friars who staff St. Joseph's Parish. Because the friars have a vow of poverty, this income was forwarded to our provincial superiors for the care of our retired friars and health care needs of the members of the Province of St. Mary. Effective July 1, 2005, however, the remuneration given to the friars for their service to St. Joseph has been increased, thereby changing the designated purpose of the Christmas offertory collection. Your Christmas gift to our parish is needed and will be very helpful to the effective functioning of our parish and its programs.

CLUSTER 28 TRANSITION COMMITTEE

As we approach Christmas and the mid-point of our year of planning for the future of Cluster 28, we wish to thank all of you who have read these little reports the past months and have given us your support and feedback. We are especially grateful for your continued prayers as we have worked to face the issues before us. These reports will continue in the new year along with a number of meetings to allow more members of our community to become involved in this conversation about our future.

In the meantime, we wish all of you the best of holidays. May you and your families be safe, be at peace, and be renewed in the hope that Our Lord's coming brought to the whole world. That hope, that belief in the future, is what

must motivate all our work as individuals and as a community of faith. Merry Christmas! Fr. Jim Lafontaine



Among the intentions remembered at the Masses during the upcoming week are:

Monday, December 21

8:00 a.m. Holy Souls in Purgatory

Tuesday, December 22

8:00 a.m. Special Intention

Wednesday, December 23

8:00 a.m. Living & Deceased Capuchins & Their Benefactors

Thursday, December 24

4:00 p.m. (Church)-Our Parish Family

4:00 p.m. (Center)-Our Parish Family

6:00 p.m. (Church)-Our Parish Family

12:00 Midnight (Church)-Our Parish Family

Friday, December 25

10:00 a.m. Our Parish Family

Saturday, December 26

8:00 a.m. Alfred & Lee Carnicella

4:00 p.m. Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Casale

Sunday, December 27

8:00 a.m. Richard & Elizabeth Fogg

10:00 a.m. Dorothy DiBiase

5:00 p.m. Our Parish Family



The Sanctuary Lamp will burn the week of December 20th, in loving memory of Robert Marley, Sr.



CHURCH SUPPORT

Offertory collections last weekend totaled \$8,485. A total of 669 individuals were in attendance. One year ago over the same weekend, 764 individuals attended church and contributed \$7,724 to the offertory collection. Last weekend's second collection to benefit the retired religious totaled \$2,575. The December 8th, Immaculate Conception Feast Day collection totaled \$1,915.

For the first two weekend collections in December, offertory collections have totaled \$18,105 and we have achieved 38% of our December offertory goal of \$47,810. As a reminder, our parish's finance committee is asking all parishioners to increase their offertory contribution from last year by \$1 per individual attendee during the month of December. If all in attendance could do this, this would go a long way toward helping us achieve our December offertory goal.

CANS AND BOTTLES

Bring your empty cans and bottles to St. Joseph's. Their redemption will financially benefit our parish. Through the thoughtfulness of parishioners Trish and Tim Boutot, owners of Boots Bounty Discount Beverage and Redemption Center in South Portland, a mobile collection vehicle will be in the church parking lot near the rear entrance to the church at specific hours each weekend: after the Saturday 4:00 p.m. Mass; after the Sunday 8:00 a.m. Mass; prior to the Sunday 10:00 a.m. Mass and before the Sunday 5:00 p.m. Mass. Drop your redeemable cans and bottles in the container and watch St. Joseph's income grow! The collection will continue throughout the month of December.

THE NEEDY IN OUR MIDST

The collection taken up at our parish Thanksgiving Day Mass totaled \$642.00, a wonderfully generous response. These funds have been ear-marked for our St. Joseph's Fund for the Needy, the fund available to the friars here at St. Joseph's to distribute to those who seek assistance from us. Requests for assistance come for many needs: food, fuel, rent assistance, clothing, medicine – most times from persons outside of our parish community.

We have a growing awareness, however, that these same real needs lie within our parish community. We are aware that these needs may be compounded by a recent or impending loss or cut-back of employment. We are also aware that, oftentimes, parishioners who are experiencing need are hesitant, for whatever reason, to seek assistance.

The friars here at St. Joseph's have discussed this among ourselves and with our parish council. We wish to propose the following: Parishioners who wish to assist the needy of our parish family are encouraged to purchase a gift card (in whatever dollar amount) from Shaws, Hannafords, CMP, CVS, Rite Aid, Walgreens, or other providers of vital services) and anonymously drop the gift card into the weekend collection basket. Please make sure to note the gift card's value.

Parishioners who are in need should contact one of the friars here at St. Joseph's to make their need known. All contacts will be kept strictly confidential.

The friars will, to the best of their abilities, match those in need with gift cards received.

While this is an appropriate response during this Thanksgiving/Advent/Christmas time, we hope that this outreach to the needy in our midst might continue well into the future for as long as necessary.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS

THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!!

The Knights recently participated in two fund raisers that were huge success! The December 6th "Breakfast with Santa" was one of the highest attended breakfasts in recent Knight History. A special thank you to all parishioners that were in attendance! The November "Citrus Fruit" fruit sale resulted in 160 10/20 lb boxes sold. A special thank you is extended to all parishioners who purchased fruit. Close to \$1,800 of revenue was raised from these two fund raisers. These funds will be used to support charitable organizations throughout our community.